In response to the non-final Official Action mailed November 14, 2002, as extended through May 14, 2003, applicants hereby amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Amend independent claims 11 and 15 respectively, as shown hereinafter.

Furthermore, in accordance with the requirements of the revised amendment format for 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (as published in the *Official Gazette* on February 25, 2003), applicants present below the text of all the presently pending claims in the instant application. Accordingly, the full text for each of pending claims 11-15 respectively is set forth below.

In addition, in view of the explicit holdings rendered by the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Festo* case recently decided on May 28, 2002 [Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kabushiki Co. Ltd. *et al.*, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1705 (2002)] concerning the applicability of the legal doctrine of equivalents to amended claim language, applicants now present a formal attestation and affirmation of their legal position and substantive rights: Applicants do not now surrender for any reason, nor have previously surrendered at any time or for any reason during the prosecution of the instant application, any inventive subject matter which is or could be expected to be a particular equivalent of the invention defined by the language of the

amended claims then pending by a person ordinarily skilled in this art; and that no presumption of estoppel, either in law or equity, exists or pertains now or at any time previously as a potential bar to the application of the doctrine of equivalence for any and all possible embodiments which may be found to be encompassed now or in the future by the language of the amended claims proffered now or at any time previously for examination to the U.S. Patent Office. Accordingly, applicants affirmatively rebut and explicitly dispute any presumption that the doctrine of equivalence for the language of the amended claims has been surrendered or is not in full force for any reason and at any time during the prosecution for any and all amended claims prosecuted for the instant application.

Given these circumstances, the language of amended independent claims 11 and 15 as well as dependent claims 12-14 respectively are now presented for review in revised format on the immediately following page.

11. (Currently amended): A PR-39 derived oligopeptide family whose members individually cause a selective inhibition of proteasome-mediated degradation of ~~at least one~~ a specific peptide in-situ after introduction intracellularly to a viable cell, each member of said PR-39 derived oligopeptide family being

an oligopeptide less than 26 amino acid residues in length;

an oligopeptide whose N-terminal amino acid residue sequence which begins with Arg-Arg-Arg;

an analog of the amino acid sequence of native PR-39 peptide;

an oligopeptide which is pharmacologically active for selectively altering the proteolytic degradation activity of proteasomes in-situ;

able to interact in-situ with at least the α7 subunit of such proteasomes as are present within the cytoplasm of the cell; and

able selectively to alter the proteolytic degradation activity of said proteasomes having an interacting α7 subunit such that the proteolytic degradation mediated by said proteasomes against ~~at least one~~ a specific peptide becomes selectively inhibited while the proteolytic degradation mediated by said proteasomes ~~against other peptides~~ apart from against said specific peptide remains unaltered.

12. (Previously amended): The PR-39 derived oligopeptide family as recited in claim 11 or 15 whose membership includes a peptide comprised of 15 amino acid residues whose sequence is Arg-Arg-Arg-Pro-Arg-Pro-Pro-Tyr-Leu-Pro-Arg-Pro-Arg-Pro-Pro (SEQ ID NO: 3).

13. (Previously amended): The PR-39 derived oligopeptide family as recited in claim 11 or 15 whose membership includes a peptide comprised of 11 amino acid residues whose sequence is Arg-Arg-Arg-Pro-Arg-Pro-Pro-Tyr-Leu-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO: 4).

14. (Previously amended): The PR-39 derived oligopeptide family as recited in claim 11 or 15 whose membership includes a peptide comprised of 8 amino acid residues whose sequence is Arg-Arg-Arg-Pro-Arg-Pro-Pro-Tyr (SEQ ID NO: 5).

15. (Currently amended): A PR-39 derived oligopeptide family whose members cause a selective inhibition of protease-mediated degradation of ~~at least one~~ a specific peptide in-situ after introduction intracellularly to a viable cell, each member of said PR-39 derived oligopeptide family being:

an oligopeptide less than 20 amino acid residues in length;

an oligopeptide whose N-terminal amino acid residue sequence begins with Arg-Arg-Arg;

an analog of the amino acid sequence of native PR-39 peptide;

an oligopeptide which is pharmacologically active for selectively altering the proteolytic degradation activity of proteasomes in-situ;

able to interact in-situ with at least the α7 subunit of such proteasomes as are present within the cytoplasm of the cell; and

able to alter the proteolytic degradation activity of said proteasomes having an interacting α7 subunit such that the proteolytic degradation mediated by said proteasomes against ~~at least one~~ a specific peptide becomes selectively inhibited while the proteolytic degradation mediated by said proteasomes ~~against other peptides~~ apart from against said specific peptide remains unaltered.